

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

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[1973]

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REPLY TO: 5230 Forest Insect Evaluation

March 21, 1973

SUBJECT: Laguna Mountain Bark Beetle Control Projects (F.Y. 1973)



TO: Forest Supervisor, Cleveland N.F.

The week of March 5, 1973, Entomologists Ken Swain and Max Ollieu, Regional Office, accompanied by Dick Hunt, Entomologist, California Division of Forestry, were on the Descanso District to make a Biological Evaluation of the proposed Laguna Mountain Cooperative Insect Control Project. They had an opportunity to discuss the Laguna Mountain infestation with the following Cleveland National Forest and California Division of Forestry personnel:

Tom Grigery	- District Ranger	- Descanso District
Bard Beutler	- Resource Officer	- " "
Jim Bridges	- Asst. Resource Officer	- " "
Dick Raybould	- Fire Control Officer	- " "
Jack Reveal	- Forest Resource Officer	- Supervisor's Office
John Gray	- Forester, CDF	- Riverside
Bob Rappeley	- Forester, CDF	- Riverside
Rex Coulson	- Camp Supt., CDF	- La Cima

The magnitude of the California flatheaded borer infestation is causing the highest mortality ever recorded for the Laguna Mountains. Jim Bridges estimates there are between 5,000 and 6,000 infested trees on both National Forest and private land. To date, about 2,000 trees have been marked for treatment. Unfortunately, there is neither the time nor the financing to treat all of the infested trees before beetle emergence in May. Consequently, we urge that an all-out effort be made to remove these infested trees by salvage logging and wood sales. In the past, it has been difficult to make salvage sales as the nearest mill (Big Bear Timber Co.), which can handle a sizeable volume, is located about 150 miles from the Laguna Mountains. However, we are optimistic that the time is now right to make such a sale, as the lumber market is up and Big Bear Timber Company is in dire need of logs.

In your efforts to make a salvage sale, keep in close contact with the California Division of Forestry, as it would also be desirable to salvage log the private land. If you need help in making the timber sale appraisal, our staff in the Division of Timber Management can be made available to assist you. Remember, in addition to your timber

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monies (O31), I&DC monies may be used to help finance sales of insect-infested trees. Please keep us informed of your financial needs for the Laguna Mountain Insect Control Project.

New biological, environmental impact and cost-benefit evaluations for the Laguna Mountain Insect Control Project are being written for F.Y. 1974.. One of the major recommendations will be to make a green timber sale (selection cutting) in the Laguna Mountains. This recommendation will be discussed in detail in the forthcoming evaluation.

H. F. Wise

H. F. WISE
Acting Chief, Division of Timber Management

xcc: Cleveland